

App. No. 10/618,490
Amendment Dated: December 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 9, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 and 7-19 remain pending in the application. The Office Action allowed Claims 18 and 19. The Office Action rejected Claims 1-3, 11, and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Poucher (US Patent No. 6,612,502). The Office Action objected to Claims 4-10, 12, 16, and 17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 7, and 8 have been amended. Claim 6 has been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Claim 6 was objected to by the Office Action but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 6. It is submitted that Claim 1 is allowable as amended. Claims 2-5 and 7-12 depend from valid base claim 1, and therefore include the limitations of Claim 1. Therefore, Claims 2-5 and 7-12, are allowable as written.

Applicants respectfully submit that Poucher does not anticipate Claim 13. The Office Action states that the "DAC output will vary with temperature due to changes in the resistance values of the DAC internal resistors; however, since these changes are effectively taken account of in the trip temperature register 27 at the time the trip temperature is programmed, this DAC output change with temperature is not a source of error. These changes in DAC output due to DAC resistor changes with temperature will not increase the error of the circuit." (Office Action, page 3, paragraph 2). Poucher is discussing accounting for error in the changes of resistance with increases and decreases in temperature. Poucher does not disclose "converting

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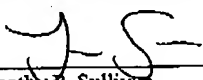
the external resistance to a digital code using resistors and comparators associated with a desired number of zones." (emphasis added).

Based on the above discussion, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 is allowable. Claims 14-17 are dependent from valid base claim 13, and therefore include the limitations of base claim 13. Therefore, Claims 14-17, are allowable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



Timothy P. Sullivan
Registration No. 47,981
Direct Dial: 206.342.6254

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
206.342.6200

